

**LLOYD**  
**Application No. 09/720,358**  
**May 3, 2004**

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Currently, claims 2-15 and 18 are pending in this application.

**Allowable Subject Matter:**

Claims 2 and 15 have been indicated as being allowable. Claims 3-14 now depend from claim 2 and are therefore allowable.

Independent claim 18 is similar to allowable claim 2 but requires “photons” instead of “signals.” Applicant submits that claim 18 is therefore allowable.

**Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103:**

Claims 1, 3-11, 14 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being unpatentable over Palo (U.S. Patent Application 60/060,344) in view of Wickersheim (U.S. ‘809). Claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being unpatentable over Palo in view of Wickersheim and further in view of Gillispie et al (U.S. ‘452, hereinafter “Gillispie”). Claim 13 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being unpatentable over Palo in view of Wickersheim and further in view of Deka et al (U.S. ‘278, hereinafter “Deka”).

Applicant submits that U.S. Patent Application 60/060,344 does not constitute “prior art” against the present application. The Office Action does not explain how this application constitutes prior art in any detail. Nevertheless, Applicant has canceled claim 1 and amended claims 3-14 to depend from allowable claim 2 to expedite allowance of this application. Claim 18 is allowable for the reasons discussed above.

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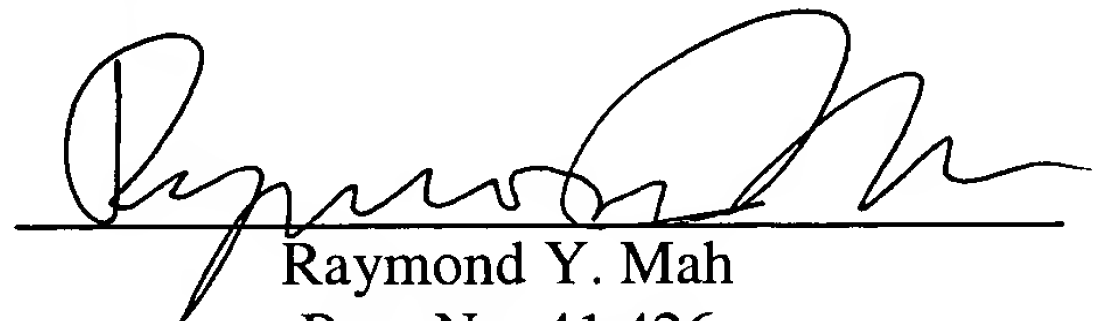
**Conclusion:**

Applicant believes that this entire application is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests a notice to this effect. If the Examiner has any questions or believes that an interview would further prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

**NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.**

By:



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